

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION

School Requirements for North Dakota Schools

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
Safe & Healthy Schools Unit
701-328-2753

Is HIV/AIDS education necessary in North Dakota?

Yes. Although North Dakota remains the state with the fewest HIV infections in the U.S., the number of infections is steadily increasing and the behaviors that transmit the disease are present.

What does the North Dakota law say about school district policy on HIV/AIDS?

North Dakota Century Code 23-07-16.1 requires each school district to adopt a policy regarding how they will handle children in the school district, employees of the school district, or independent contractors with the school district who have contracted a significant contagious disease. *See Model North Dakota School Board Association policy.*

What does the North Dakota law say about educating students on HIV/AIDS?

North Dakota Administrative Code 33-06-05.6-01 requires all students, employees of the school district and independent contractors be educated concerning significant contagious disease.

How is HIV/AIDS transmitted?

HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through sexual intercourse with an infected person; injection drug paraphernalia contaminated with infected blood; an infected mother to her child during pregnancy, childbirth, breast-feeding; or other transmission of bodily fluids. According to the 2009 YRBS, forty-five percent of North Dakota high school students have had sexual intercourse at least one time. Males and females are most likely to begin having sexual intercourse between the ages of 15 and 16. Therefore, education of these risk behaviors must take place before this time.

Will every child in North Dakota receive the same information about HIV/AIDS?

No. Local districts determine content level for each grade.

What are Universal Precautions?

Using Universal Precautions means taking precautions to minimize risk from exposure to blood and/or body fluids. Proper hygiene habits include: wearing gloves, washing with soap and water and disinfecting the area with an antiseptic.

What advantages are there in having school staff trained in HIV/AIDS education?

HIV/AIDS is a very sensitive subject area and many staff feel uncomfortable talking about it. Training all staff about HIV/AIDS makes them more comfortable.

What support does the Department of Public Instruction provide?

The Safe & Healthy Schools Unit of the Department of Public Instruction provides teacher training and suggestions for age appropriate lessons which fit into the curricula adopted from the North Dakota State Health standards. There are nine teacher centers in the state that schedule these trainings (www.sendit.nodak.edu/tcn). In addition, your local public health unit can provide information about universal precautions.

What must be included in HIV/AIDS education?

HIV/AIDS education must include:

1. The means of transmission in an institutional setting
2. Protecting against the disease
3. The use of universal precautions

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Universal Precautions Kits

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Kit Supplies	Purpose	Recommendations
Container for kit: plastic container, tote tray, or fanny pack	To safely store kit materials	Each kit should be restocked after each use and reviewed annually for outdated materials.
Large, re-sealable plastic bag	To dispose of bloody and/or soiled materials	A sealable plastic bag will help contain soiled materials.
4 single use, disposable, non-sterile gloves	To use as a barrier against body fluids	Stock gloves in a variety of sizes.
4 - 4x4 gauze squares	To cover wounds and stop bleeding	
6 assorted bandages	To cover wounds	
Absorbent paper towels	To clean up blood, vomit, etc.	The site must be cleaned and then disinfected by the appropriate staff.
Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (alcohol base of at least 60%)	If soap and water are not immediately available, hand sanitizers can be used to kill germs on the hands. Hand sanitizers should not be used (and are not effective) if visible dirt, blood or other body fluids are present.	Hand washing with soap and water for at least 15-20 seconds is the best single way to prevent the spread of germs from one person to another.

Recommendations:

- Keep one Universal Precautions kit in each classroom.
- One kit containing personal protective equipment (PPE) should be available at each school. PPE may include: gloves, gown, face shields or masks, eye protection and resuscitation bags or pocket masks for ventilation (CPR).
- A fanny pack of supplies should also be kept with playground attendants and bus drivers.